

APPENDIX B
Serial No.: 09/463,474
Claims As Pending After Entry Of The Instant Amendment

1. (Thrice Amended) A conjugate for distinguishing cancerous or inflamed tissue from healthy tissue comprising a fluorescent moiety and a carrier, wherein the fluorescent moiety and the carrier are joined to one another via an acidic ester, an acidic amide bond or a Schiff base, and wherein said carrier is a protein.
2. (Reiterated) The conjugate of claim 13, wherein the serum albumin comprises a human serum albumin.
4. (Twice amended) A conjugate for distinguishing cancerous or inflamed tissue from healthy tissue comprising a fluorescent moiety and a carrier, wherein the fluorescent moiety and the carrier are joined to one another via an acidic ester, an acidic amide bond or a Schiff base, wherein said carrier is a protein, and wherein the conjugate comprises a plurality of carriers.
5. (Twice Amended) The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent moiety comprises an acid group, a hydroxyl group, an amino group or an aldehyde group.
6. (Reiterated) The conjugate of claim 15, wherein the excitation wavelength is 630 to 850 nm.
7. (Twice Amended) The conjugate of claim 18, wherein the excitation wavelength is 320 to 450 nm.
8. (Twice Amended) The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent moiety comprises a porphyrin, a chlorin, a bacteriochlorin, a chlorophyll, a phthalocyanine, a carboxy cinnamic acid, a carboxy cinnamic acid, a carboxyfluorescein, an acridic acid, a coumaric acid, or an indocyanine green.

9. (Twice Amended) A conjugate for distinguishing cancerous or inflamed tissue from healthy tissue comprising a fluorescent moiety and a carrier, wherein the fluorescent moiety and the carrier are joined to one another via an acidic ester, an acidic amide bond or a Schiff base, and wherein said carrier is a protein, and wherein the conjugate comprises a plurality of fluorescent moieties.

10. (Twice Amended) A method of producing the conjugate of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent moiety is covalently bonded to the carrier thereby forming the connector.

13. (Amended) The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the protein is a serum albumin.

15. (Amended) The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent moiety has an excitation wavelength of 630 nm or greater.

16. (Amended) A composition comprising the conjugate of claim 1 and an acceptable carrier or excipient.

18. (New) The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent moiety has an excitation wavelength of 450 nm or less.